



Safeguarding Policy (incorporating Child Protection and Prevent)

PURPOSE OF POLICY/ DOCUMENT

Heart of Worcestershire College fully recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding learners. This policy is relevant to all students and staff employed by the College and all agencies and visitors that have access to learners through the college.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002; and in line with government publications the Teachers' Standards 2012, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2015 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 16.

APPLICATION OF POLICY (RANGE AND SCOPE)

This policy covers all learners, prospective learners, visitors, staff and stakeholders.

INTERPRETATION

'Young Person' refers to someone who is over the school leaving age of 16 years and under 18 years. This Policy does not apply to 14 – 16 year old learners who fall under the jurisdiction of the school which they attend and the local authority policies relating to that age group.

'Vulnerable Adult' refers to a person who is aged 18 years and over, who is or may be, unable to take care of him or herself, or take steps to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation.

PARTICULAR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS/ISSUES

The college has a duty of care to all of its learners, but particular responsibilities to those under 18 years, and those who are vulnerable adults. There are five main elements to the policy:

- Raising awareness of safeguarding issues and equipping young people and vulnerable adults with the skills needed to keep them safe;
- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting safeguarding cases;
- Supporting young people and vulnerable adults who have been identified as in need of early help or at risk of harm and those presenting with safeguarding concerns.
- Establishing a safe environment in which young people and vulnerable adults can learn and develop.
- Ensuring Heart of Worcestershire College practices safer recruitment in checking the suitability of staff to work with young people and vulnerable adults.

Relevant Legislation

Children Act 1989/2004

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Data Protection Act 1998

The Education Act 1996/2002/2011

Equality Act 2010
The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Worcestershire Local Authority appendices on the following subjects are supplementary to this policy and are available on the College Portal:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Student Standards	Data Protection Act	Search and Restraint Policy
Staff Disciplinary Policy	Equality Policy	Health and Safety Policy
Code of Conduct	Recruitment Policy	Managing Allegations Policy
IT Policy / internet safety		

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND DISABILITY (DISABILITY, EQUALITY, DUTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT)

Has a preliminary Equality Impact Assessment been completed?

*Yes No Yes Date Completed:

Is a full Impact Assessment required?

*Yes No No

If 'yes', has a copy been sent to the Equality Manager?

*Yes No

For Completion by the Executive:

DOCUMENT REFERENCE CODE	SAF02
CATEGORY	Safeguarding
AUTHOR / ORIGINATOR (Job Title)	Assistant Principal Information Systems and Student Experience
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REVIEW DATE	30th September 2018
POSTHOLDER RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW (Job Title)	Assistant Principal Information Systems and Student Experience
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE? (Delete as applicable)	NO
IF YES, STATE COMMITTEE & DATE OF APPROVAL	Corporation – 7 November 2017

Key Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/ Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC): Experience	Julia Breakwell Information Systems and Student
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Sal Friel Student Experience and Welfare Manager
Early Years Safeguarding Deputy:	Emma Lockwood (W) Kyrene Bowes (B)

'Safeguarding' is defined as:

- protecting children/young people from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's/young people's health or development;
- ensuring that children/young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- undertaking a role so as to enable children/young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
- taking action to enable all children/young people to have the best possible outcome.

The College fully recognises it's moral and statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students, but has particular responsibilities to those under 18 years, and those who are vulnerable adults. This policy seeks to ensure the safety and welfare of all those learners under 18 years and those who are vulnerable adults.

Specifically the College will seek to provide a safe environment for students to learn and to identify those suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and to take appropriate action to ensure that these students are kept safe.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with young people and vulnerable adults, college staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The College will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where young people and vulnerable adults feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure that young people know that there is a dedicated Safeguarding Team whom they can approach if they are worried;
- Ensure that there are dedicated sessions within the Tutorial Framework and through the curriculum for young people and vulnerable adults to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse, including via the internet and other technologies.

Abuse may be physical, sexual or psychological. Whilst abusers may be relatives or friends of the family, some meet children, young people and vulnerable adults in other contexts. A small minority of these may gain access to children/young people in schools/colleges as teachers, support staff or through voluntary involvement in enrichment activities. Students should not feel inhibited from reporting abuse against them by staff or volunteers. Any incident where a student has grounds to believe that a member of staff has crossed the boundary of acceptable behaviour should be reported. The College will continue to ensure that the environment encourages students and staff to make truthful reports of any inappropriate behaviour. Handling allegations, particularly serious ones, is a complex and delicate process.

In addition, failure to address bullying or racist incidents in College may lead to consideration under safeguarding learners' procedures.

Any fears or worries that children, young people and vulnerable adults bring into the College should not go unnoticed by staff but should be reported immediately and in confidence to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Senior Lead.

1. Safeguarding Procedures

The college will follow the procedures set out by the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE). The College will:

- Ensure that a senior member of staff is appropriately trained and has designated duties to act as the Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding. This is the Assistant Principal Information Systems and Student Experience. The DSL will ensure that Safeguarding policies and procedures are fully implemented and followed by all staff. The Student Experience and Welfare manager will act in the absence of the DSL as the Deputy DSL.
- Ensure that the DSL will co-ordinate action on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults with the support of the Deputy DSL and the College Safeguarding Team, ensuring that all staff, volunteers and visitors to the College know who the DSL is, understands their role and who acts in his/her absence.
- Ensure that the DSL/Deputy DSL have made arrangements to ensure adequate and appropriate cover arrangements are in place when they are not available or for out of hours activities.
- Ensure that there is a nominated Safeguarding Governor.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and of their responsibility to report and record any concerns to the DSL or the Principal and that they may raise concerns directly with Children's Social Care Services if they believe their concerns have not been listened to or acted upon.
- Ensure that the duty of care towards students and staff is promoted by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe and risky behaviour and assist staff to monitor their own standards and practice;
- Ensure that parents/guardians have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the college and staff for safeguarding by publishing our policy on the college website.
- Ensure that partner organisations are aware of, and understand the need for compliance with our safeguarding guidelines and procedures.
- Be aware of and follow procedures set out by the DfE and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, including making a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Ensure that a referral is made to DBS and/or the National College for Teaching and Leadership if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have been had they not resigned. Please see the Managing Allegations Policy for further guidance.
- Operate safer recruitment practice, ensuring that at least one member on every recruitment panel has completed safer recruitment training.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and are aware of whistleblowing procedures and helplines.
- In instances that feature particularly high risk elements, the DSL will engage in 'priority dialogue' with the Principal and CEO and/or the Vice Principal in his/her absence, in order to come to an organisational position.
- Ensure that the Safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed annually by the Corporation, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance requires the need for an interim review.

2. Training Guidelines

- 2.1 When staff join the college they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of this policy, the college code of conduct, the leaflet 'Safer Working Practice for Staff in Education Settings', Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education and informed who the DSL is and who acts in their absence and what this role includes.
- 2.2 All staff are required to undertake a mandatory training session on safeguarding within their probationary period. The training programme will include basic child protection information relating to signs and symptoms of abuse, how to manage a disclosure from a young person or vulnerable adult, when and how to record a concern about the welfare of a young person or vulnerable adult, e-safety and advice on safe working practices. Full training will be refreshed at least every 3 years. In addition, they will receive safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually.
- 2.3 All volunteers, agency staff and regular visitors to the college will be told where to access our policy, given the name of the DSL and Deputy and informed of the college's procedures in reporting concerns.
- 2.4 Staff with specific responsibility for safeguarding will undertake both single and inter-agency training at a level suitable to their role and responsibilities. In addition to formal training the DSL and deputy/ies will update their knowledge and skills via WSCB newsletters, briefings, meetings and seminars, at regular intervals, at least annually. (prev 2 years)
- 2.5 Staff with leadership responsibilities will undertake further relevant training in safeguarding related issues such as CSE, FGM, Radicalisation (WRAP training), Management of Allegations of Abuse and cascade the learning from this training to the rest of the staff.

3. Responsibilities of Heart of Worcestershire College

- 3.1 **The Governing Body** will nominate a member to have responsibility for liaising with the DSL and or the Principal in matters relating to safeguarding, to ensure that;
 - safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, available to parents on the college website or by other means and reviewed annually;
 - mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education;
 - an annual report on the effectiveness of the college's safeguarding procedures is presented to the governing body;
 - any weaknesses brought to its attention relating to safeguarding are remedied without delay.
 - The DSL role is explicit in the role holder's job description;**The Principal** will ensure that:
 - the safeguarding policies and procedures are fully implemented and followed by all staff and that sufficient resources are allocated to enable the DSL and other staff to discharge their responsibilities with regard to child protection.
 - All staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that these are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistleblowing procedures;
 - All allegations of abuse are reported to the LADO in a timely manner.

The DSL will co-ordinate action on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults within the college setting. The DSL, with the support of the Deputy DSL and college Safeguarding Team, is responsible for:

- Organising mandatory safeguarding training and for all newly appointed staff and regular refresher training sessions to enable staff to update as required;
- Providing a mechanism to ensure that all staff understand and are able to discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education;
- Undertaking, in conjunction with the Principal and Safeguarding Governor, an annual audit of safeguarding procedures, using the County safeguarding checklist;
- Referring a young person or vulnerable adult to the Family Front Door, Children's Social Care or Adult Social Care as appropriate, when there are concerns about possible abuse and neglect;
- Keeping written records of concerns about young people and vulnerable adults, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately;
- Ensuring all child protection records are kept securely and in locked locations;
- Ensuring that all child protection files are transferred in a safe and timely manner when a young person or vulnerable adult moves settings, both between and across phases, within and out of county;
- Notifying the key worker if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a young person who is subject to a child protection plan;
- Monitoring unauthorised absence, particularly where young people or vulnerable adults go missing on repeated occasions;
- Developing effective links with relevant agencies and other professionals and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding safeguarding matters including co-operation with serious case reviews, attendance at strategy meetings, initial and review child protection conferences, core group and child in need review meetings;
- Contributing to assessments and providing reports to initial and review conferences which, where appropriate, have been shared with parents first.

4. Procedures for Managing Concerns

- 4.1 Our college adheres to child protection procedures that have been agreed locally through the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). Where we identify children and families in need of support, we will carry out our responsibilities in accordance with the [West Mercia Consortium inter-agency procedures](#) and the [WSCB Levels of Need Guidance](#).
- 4.2 Every member of staff, including volunteers working with students at our college, is advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a student, staff members should always act in the interests of the student and have a responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy.
- 4.3 All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy to allow the DSL/Deputy DSL to build up a picture and access support for the student at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect.

- 4.4 It is *not* the responsibility of college staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All staff, however, have a duty to recognise concerns and pass the information on in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.
- 4.5 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in the college. Any member of staff or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that a student is at risk of harm must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to the deputy designated lead. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of a member of the Safeguarding Team.
- 4.6 Following receipt of any information raising concern, the DSL/Deputy DSL will consider what action to take and seek advice from Children's Services as required. All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented.
- 4.7 All referrals will be made in line with [local procedures](#) as detailed on the [Worcestershire website](#).
- 4.8 If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a student a referral should be made to Children's or Adult Social Care Services immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the student's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration by raising concerns again with the DSL/Deputy DSL.
- 4.9 Staff should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance. However, they may also share information directly with Children's or Adult Social Care Services, or the police if: the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy and the Principal are all unavailable; they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the student's safety.
- 4.10 Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a student have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Principal or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed appropriately at this point they should contact Children's or Adult Social Care Services directly with their concerns.

5. Peer on peer abuse

- 5.1 We recognise that young people and children are also vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by their peers or siblings. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Abuse perpetrated by young people and children can be just as harmful as that perpetrated by an adult, so it is important to remember the impact on the victim of the abuse as well as to focus on the support for the child or young person exhibiting the harmful behaviour. Such abuse will always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and the same [safeguarding children procedures](#) will apply in respect of any young person who is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; staff must never tolerate or dismiss concerns relating to peer on peer abuse.
- 5.2 Where a young person discloses safeguarding allegations against another student in the same setting, the DSL/Deputy DSL should refer to the local procedures on the WSCB website (section 2.12) and seek advice from the Family Front Door or Community Social Worker before commencing its own investigation or contacting parents.

6. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

- 6.1 We recognise that young people with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges and these are discussed in staff training. These additional barriers can include:
- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the young person's disability without further exploration;

- young people with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

7. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 7.1 We recognise that CSE is a form of child abuse involving criminal behaviours against children and young people which can have a long-lasting adverse impact on a young person's physical and emotional health. Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of children or young people. Victims can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs and alcohol, and sometimes accommodation. It may also be linked to child trafficking.
- 7.2 The college addresses the risks of sexual exploitation in the tutorial curriculum. A common feature of sexual exploitation is that the young person often doesn't recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and doesn't see themselves as a victim. The young person may initially resent what they perceive as interference by staff, but staff must act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.
- 7.3 All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation and all concerns are reported immediately to the DSL.

8. 'Honour Based' Violence

- 8.1 We recognise that our staff are well placed to identify concerns and take action to prevent children and young people from becoming victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other forms of so-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) and provide guidance on these issues through our safeguarding training. If staff have a concern regarding a child or young person that might be at risk of HBV they should inform the DSL/Deputy DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multiagency liaison with police and children's social care.
- 8.2 Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers in England and Wales, to personally report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. We will provide guidance and support to our teachers on this requirement and further information on when and how to make a report can be found in the following Home Office guidance: ['Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation - procedural information'](#) (October 2015).

9. Dealing with Disclosures

- If a learner discloses directly to a member of staff, the following procedure will be followed:
- Listen carefully to what is said.
- Ask open questions such as:
 - 'Tell me what happened'.
 - 'Please explain what you mean when you say.....'
 - 'Can you describe the person?' or 'Can you describe the place?'
- Do not ask questions which may be considered to suggest what might have happened, or who has perpetrated the abuse, e.g. 'Did your Dad hit you?'
- Do not force the learner to repeat what he/she said in front of another person.
- Do not begin an investigation.

- Report immediately to the DSL/Deputy DSL and complete a written record, using the student's words as far as possible.

10. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

- 10.1 The college recognises that all matters relating to safeguarding are confidential. The DSL/Deputy DSL or Principal will disclose information regarding a student to other staff on a need to know basis only.
- 10.2 Members of the College Safeguarding Team will:
- Explain to young people and families at the beginning of any involvement openly and honestly what information is to be shared and why.
 - Consider the safety and security of the young person when making a decision on whether to share information.
 - Respect the views of the young person and family when consent is not given. However, the Senior Designated Person may need to override their wishes and share information whilst being honest in the interests of maintaining a working relationship.
 - Seek advice if in doubt, especially where these relate to concern about significant harm to a child or serious harm to others. A cause, or possible cause, must not be ignored.
 - A *'breach of confidentiality'* only occurs where the sharing of information is not authorised by the individual who provided it and to whom it relates. Refusal of consent does not necessarily preclude the sharing of information. ***The College can lawfully justify the sharing of confidential information where:***
 - there is evidence that a young person/vulnerable adult is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm;
 - where there is reasonable cause to believe that a young person/vulnerable adult may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm;
 - to prevent significant harm arising to a young person/vulnerable adult including through the prevention, detection and prosecution of serious crime – Safeguarding Children in Education, September 2016

Informing ESFA about serious safeguarding incidents – INFORMATION FROM ESFA contract.

- ESFA has included new safeguarding clauses in the funding agreements and contracts for 2017 to 2018. Whilst the local authority and the institution have primary duties in respect of safeguarding, the Secretary of State (SoS) has a general duty to promote the wellbeing of children in England under section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. ESFA's role therefore, is to provide assurance to the SoS, in meeting her general duty, that the right organisations are taking action to keep all pupils and students safe.
- For this reason, ESFA want to be made aware when an institution is itself the subject of an investigation by the local authority or the police. They do not require details of all the safeguarding incidents an institution reports to the local authority or to the police, only where the institution itself, or one of its subcontractors, is subject to investigation. In such circumstances, ESFA requires the Chair or Chief Executive of the institution (or senior designated safeguarding lead) to email Enquiries.EFA@education.gov.uk.
- ESFA will need to know the name of the institution, the nature of the incident and confirmation that it is, or is scheduled to be investigated by the local authority and/or the police. The relevant clause will be amended at the first opportunity to be clearer on this point, either in-year or for 2018 to 2019

- **The circumstances in which ESFA funded providers should inform ESFA of safeguarding referrals/concerns**
- The main issues/referrals ESFA want to be notified about, where any funded students are concerned, are those that result in police investigations. ESFA needs to be sighted on these cases and satisfied the right action is in hand by responsible bodies.
- **How ESFA expects to be informed and level of information required**
- Please email Enquiries.EFA@education.gov.uk. ESFA will need to know the name of the institution, the nature of the safeguarding incident and confirmation that it is under investigation by the police. We will not ask for, or require any information that could be used to identify individuals or any information that will impact on your data protection duties.
- **What ESFA will do with the information provided**
- Once ESFA has been alerted that a serious safeguarding incident has taken place at an ESFA funded institution, ESFA will ensure the SoS is made aware. ESFA will then liaise with the organisations that have the primary duty. ESFA will take the action they deem necessary in accordance with the funding agreement.
- **Information to be provided to ESFA about Prevent referrals to channel panels**
- We will not require institutions to routinely inform ESFA about Prevent referrals to channel panels. In line with the position on safeguarding more generally, we will only require institutions to inform us when an institution is itself, or one of its subcontractors, is the subject of an investigation by the local authority or the police in connection with a Prevent issue. In such circumstances, we require the Chair or Chief Executive of the Institution (or senior designated safeguarding lead) to email Enquiries.EFA@education.gov.uk.
- **Information to be provided to ESFA about Disclosure and Barring Service**
- Institutions will only need to notify ESFA that a referral has been made, no other information is required.

11. Record Keeping

- 11.1 Any member of staff receiving a disclosure of abuse from a young person or vulnerable adult, or noticing signs or symptoms of abuse, will make notes as soon as possible writing down exactly what was said using the individual's own words as far as possible. All notes will be timed, dated and signed. Concerns should be recorded via the College Safeguarding Team's recording system. All records of a safeguarding nature should be passed to the DSL or Deputy DSL. The DSL/Deputy DSL will maintain and regularly audit the college's child protection records and ensure that each stand-alone file includes a chronology of significant events

12. Supporting Learners

- 12.1 We recognise that young people/vulnerable adults who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The College may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of some individuals at risk. The College will endeavour to support the student through:
- The achievement of their qualification;
 - The College ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives individuals a sense of being valued;
 - Adherence to the Student Standards Policy, ensuring that unacceptable behaviour is challenged with due consideration paid to individual circumstances;

- Liaison with partner agencies such as Children’s Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and other relevant voluntary agencies;
- The use of Early Help interventions, through the Family Front Door, when appropriate.
- Notifying Children’s Social Care immediately there is a significant concern.
- Providing continuing support to individuals by ensuring that appropriate information is forwarded under confidential cover to any new provider.

13. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults from Abuse

13.1 All adults have a right to:

- Live free from violence
- Be protected from harm & exploitation
- Independence, which involves a degree of risk.

13.2 Who is vulnerable?

The term “vulnerable” adult refers to any person aged 18 years and over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

‘Abuse’ is the inflicting of harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.

Vulnerable students may be abused within a dependent relationship or, more rarely, by a stranger. Abuse can be intentional or unintentional. There are 6 categories of abuse, which are physical, sexual, neglect, emotional or psychological and financial. It is not unusual for a vulnerable student to suffer more than one kind of abuse. Abuse may be a part of a pattern of behaviour or an isolated incident.

13.3 Other instances of vulnerability

We should also be aware of those students who might find themselves vulnerable due to circumstance. For example, those who have:

- Experience of domestic violence
- Experience of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Experience of past or repeat bullying
- A history of self-neglect or self-harm
- Been a victim of abuse or crime
- Experienced abuse due to their racial, cultural or religious background
- A poor socio-economic background
- Refugee or asylum status
- Been in the care system

13.4 Staff should note that vulnerable people are not a homogenous group, and the vulnerable status of a student can change constantly depending on their circumstances.

13.5 If anyone suspects witnesses or hears of abuse they should immediately contact the DSL, the Deputy DSL or a member of the college Safeguarding Team. Out of ‘normal working hours’, support can be obtained from the campus Duty Manager. They will then follow the internal College safeguarding procedure and ensure that support is initiated.

14. Mental Health

- 14.1 The College aims to provide a supportive environment that will help learners with mental health difficulties to realise their academic potential and meet course requirements. We also aim to facilitate and promote positive mental health and well-being. **Supporting Learners in a Crisis**
- 15.1 If a student is considered to be at serious risk of self-harm the matter should be reported to the DSL, the Deputy DSL or a member of the Safeguarding Team. There are varying levels of risk; inevitably personal judgment will be required as to the seriousness and urgency of the situation and the appropriate course of action.
- 15.2 The safety of the individual concerned and of those around them is paramount. Where there are clear indications that the student is in imminent and serious danger the emergency services should be called.

15. Safer Recruitment and Selection of Staff

- 16.1 The College has a Recruitment Policy linking explicitly to this policy. The policy statement regarding safeguarding is included in all job advertisements, publicity material, recruitment websites and candidate information packs.
- 16.2 The recruitment procedure is robust in seeking to establish the commitment of candidates to support the College's measures to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults and to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse individuals or are otherwise unsuitable to work with them. Please refer to this policy for information on DBS requirements and interim arrangements on appointment.
- 16.3 Our governors are subject to an enhanced DBS check without barred list check, in line with Worcestershire County Council's recommendation.

16. Allegations against Staff

- 17.1 It is recognised that a learner may make an allegation against a member of staff. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the DSL and/or Principal, unless the allegations concern the Principal, in which case the Chair of Governors will be informed immediately.
- 17.2 The DSL (or Chair of Governors) on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The College will follow LA procedures for managing allegations against staff. Please refer to the Managing Allegations Policy for further guidance.

17. Whistleblowing

- 18.1 It is recognised that learners cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the attitude or actions of colleagues. Please refer to the Whistleblowing Policy for further guidance.

18. Abuse of Position of Trust

- 19.1 It is recognised that as adults working in College, we are in a relationship of trust with the learners in our care and acknowledge that it is a criminal offence to abuse that trust. We acknowledge that the principle of equality embedded in the legislation of the Sexual Offenders Act 2003 applies irrespective of sexual orientation: neither homosexual nor heterosexual relationships are acceptable within a position of trust. It is recognised that the legislation is intended to protect young people in education who are over the age of consent but under 18 years of age, a significant cohort of the learners in College. However, it is important to note that staff should maintain appropriate boundaries with learners of all ages. Please refer to the staff Code of Conduct for further guidance.

19. Positive Physical Intervention

- 20.1 The College policy on positive handling is set out in a separate policy and acknowledges that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury or damage to property. Please refer to the Search and Restraint Policy for further guidance.

20. Health and Safety

- 21.1 The College Health and Safety Policy reflects the consideration given to the safeguarding of learners both within the College environment and when away from College undertaking trips and visits.
- 21.2 Risk assessments are undertaken and reviewed regularly, in respect of site security, risk of young people being drawn into terrorism or exposed to extremist behaviour, risk to and from young people displaying harmful behaviour.

21. Looked After Children

- 22.1 The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse or neglect. The college ensures that staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep looked after children safe. Appropriate staff have information about a child/young person's looked after legal status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child/young person. The designated teacher for looked after children and the DSL/Deputy DSL have details of the child/young person's social worker and the name and contact details of the Local Authority's Virtual Head for children in care.

22. Photography and use of images

- 23.1 The welfare and protection of our students is paramount and consideration should always be given to whether the use of photography is a risk. For this reason consent is always sought when photographing students using any means and including ipads, smart phones or camera and additional consideration given to photographing vulnerable students, particularly Looked After Children or those known to be fleeing domestic violence. Consent must be sought from those with parental responsibility (this may include the Local Authority in the case of Looked After Children).

23. Safe Environment

- 24.1 The College undertakes appropriate risk assessments and checks in respect of all equipment and of the buildings and grounds in line with local and national guidance and regulations concerning health and safety. The College has adequate security arrangements in place in respect of the use of its grounds and buildings by visitors.
- 23.2 Visitors to the college, for example visiting speakers, theatre groups or curriculum specialists, will be appropriately checked and vetted and must complete procedures detailed in the External Speakers Policy to ensure they are not linked to extremist groups or promoting extremist or other harmful material.

24. Radicalisation and Extremism

- 25.1 The college encourages students to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject in the college and where political issues are brought to the attention of the students; reasonably practicable steps have been taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views to students.
- 25.2 We value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights,
- 25.3 We seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.
- 25.4 We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. We will ensure that:
- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is, why we need to be vigilant in college and how to respond when concerns arise.
 - There are systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our college by using effective filtering and usage policies.
 - The DSL/Deputy DSL has received Prevent training and will act as the point of contact within our college for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.
 - The DSL/Deputy DSL will make referrals in accordance with [WSCB procedures](#) and will represent our college at Channel meetings as required.
 - We encourage students to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

25. Racist Incidents

- 26.1 Racist incidents are dealt with through guidance set out in the Student Standards Policy. The college acknowledges that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. We maintain a log of racist incidents in college.

26. Anti Bullying

- 27.1 Bullying incidents are dealt with through guidance set out in the Student Standards Policy. The college acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying, racist, homophobic and gender-related bullying, will be dealt with in accordance with our Student Standards Policy. We recognise that students with special needs and/or disabilities are more susceptible to being bullied. We maintain a log of bullying incidents in college.
- 27.2 We recognise that there will be occasions when bullying incidents will fall within child protection procedures or may be deemed criminal activity and that it may be necessary to report the concerns to the Family Front Door or to the Police.

27. Challenge and Escalation

- 28.1 The College recognises that professional disagreements may arise between any agencies and resolving problems is an integral part of co-operation and joint working to safeguard young people/vulnerable adults.
- 28.2 As part of our responsibility for safeguarding, we acknowledge that we must be prepared to challenge each other if we feel that responses to concerns, assessments or the way in which plans are implemented are not safeguarding the young person/vulnerable adult and promoting their welfare.
- 28.3 We are aware of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board escalation procedures for raising concerns in respect of poor practice and recognise our responsibility to utilise these as and when necessary, in the interests of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students.

28. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 29.1 Our Safeguarding policy and procedures will be monitored and evaluated by:
- Termly audit and analysis of the Safeguarding Log;
 - Completion of an annual safeguarding report to Corporation;
 - Student surveys and questionnaires;
 - Discussions with students and staff;
 - Scrutiny of data and risk assessments;
 - Scrutiny of the single central record of recruitment checks;

- Termly meetings with the Link Governor for Safeguarding;
- Monitoring of logs of bullying/racist/behaviour incidents;
- Supervision of staff involved in child protection cases;
- Case file audits undertaken by the DSL/Deputy DSL.

29. Safeguarding Contacts

Internal

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Julia Breakwell Assistant Principal Information Systems and Student Experience.

Tel: 01527 572599 Mobile: 07799216454 (available during college opening times)

Email: jbreakwell@howcollege.ac.uk

Deputy DSL: Sal Friel Student Experience and Welfare Manager

Tel: 01527 572525 Mobile: 07967445749

Email: sfriel@howcollege.ac.uk

College Safeguarding Teams

Cross College

Worcester & Malvern:

Sal Friel ,Student Experience Manager

Tel : 01527 572525 Mobile: 07967445749

Email- sfriel@howcollege.ac.uk

Hannah Kettle, Wellbeing Officer Mobile 07789 754161

hkettle@howcollege.ac.uk

Deborah Bird Student Support Officer

Tel: 01905 725534 Mobile: 07789 7854 161

dbird@howcollege.ac.uk

Bromsgrove & Redditch:

Sal Friel ,Student Experience Manager

Tel : 01527 572525 Mobile: 07967445749

Email- sfriel@howcollege.ac.uk

Grace Wynne Willson

Student Support Officer

Tel: 01527 572699 Mobile: 07881379252

Email: gwynnewillson@howcollege.ac.uk

Madeleine Penny

Student Welfare Officer

01527 527649 07967445558

Email: mpenny@howcollege.ac.uk

Helen Wood, Student Welfare Officer
Tel: 01527 572811 Mobile: 07881379253
Email: hwood@howcollege.ac.uk

External

Family Front Door		01905 822666
Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team		01905 768020
LADO	Jon Hancock	01905 843311 07809586225
Stronger Families Team		01905 766796

Channel/Prevent contacts:

Local Authority Paul Kinsella (pkinsella@worcestershire.gov.uk)

West Mercia Police DC Craig Colley 01386 591917 / 07989691090
James Byron 01386 591816 / 077730410731

Police Public Protection Unit:

24hrs non-emergency	101
Emergency	999

NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
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APPENDIX 1

Recognition & Identification of Abuse

Taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, Appendix A

What is abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Indicators of Abuse

Caution should be used when referring to lists of signs and symptoms of abuse. Although the signs and symptoms listed below may be indicative of abuse there may be alternative explanations. In assessing the circumstances of any child any of these indicators should be viewed within the overall context of the child's individual situation including any disability.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Emotional abuse is difficult to:

- define
- identify/recognise
- prove

Emotional abuse is chronic and cumulative and has a long-term impact. Indicators may include:

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags
- Sudden speech disorders
- Continual self-depreciation ('I'm stupid, ugly, worthless, etc.')
- Overreaction to mistakes
- Extreme fear of any new situation
- Inappropriate response to pain ('I deserve this')
- Unusual physical behaviour (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation) - consider within the context of any form of disability such as autism
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Children suffering from emotional abuse may be withdrawn and emotionally flat. One reaction is for the child to seek attention constantly or to be over-familiar. Lack of self-esteem and developmental delay are again likely to be present
- Babies – feeding difficulties, crying, poor sleep patterns, delayed development, irritable, non-cuddly, apathetic, non-demanding
- Toddler/Pre-School – head banging, rocking, bad temper, 'violent', clingy. From overactive to apathetic, noisy to quiet. Developmental delay – especially language and social skills
- School age – Wetting and soiling, relationship difficulties, poor performance at school, non-attendance, antisocial behaviour. Feels worthless, unloved, inadequate, frightened, isolated, corrupted and terrorised
- Adolescent – depression, self-harm, substance abuse, eating disorder, poor self-esteem, oppositional, aggressive and delinquent behaviour
- Child may be underweight and/or stunted

- Child may fail to achieve milestones, fail to thrive, experience academic failure or under achievement
- Also consider a child's difficulties in expressing their emotions and what they are experiencing and whether this has been impacted on by factors such as age, language barriers or disability

NEGLECT

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment), failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers) or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

There are occasions when nearly all parents find it difficult to cope with the many demands of caring for children. But this does not mean that their children are being neglected. Neglect involves ongoing failure to meet a child's needs.

Neglect can often fit into six forms which are:

- Medical – the withholding of medical care including health and dental.
- Emotional – lack of emotional warmth, touch and nurture
- Nutritional – either through lack of access to a proper diet which can affect in their development.
- Educational – failing to ensure regular school attendance that prevents the child reaching their full potential academically
- Physical – failure to meet the child's physical needs
- Lack of supervision and guidance – meaning the child is in dangerous situations without the ability to risk assess the danger.¹

Common Concerns:

With regard to the child, some of the regular concerns are:

- The child's development in all areas including educational attainment
- Cleanliness
- Health
- Children left at home alone and accidents related to this
- Taking on unreasonable care for others
- Young carers

Neglect can often be an indicator of further maltreatment and is often identified as an issue in serious case reviews as being present in the lead up to the death of the child or young person. It is important to recognise that the most frequent issues and concerns regarding the family in relation to neglect relate to parental capability. This can be a consequence of:

- Poor health, including mental health or mental illness
- Disability, including learning difficulties
- Substance misuse and addiction
- Domestic violence

School staff need to consider both acts of *commission* (where a parent/carer deliberately neglects the child) and acts of *omission* (where a parent's failure to act is causing the neglect). This is a key consideration with regard to school attendance where parents are not ensuring their child attend school regularly.

Many of the signs of neglect are visible. However school staff may not instinctively know how to recognise signs of neglect or know how to respond effectively when they suspect a pupil is being neglected. Children spend considerable time in school so staff have opportunities to identify patterns over time and recognise and respond to concerns about their safety and welfare. All concerns should be recorded and reflected upon, not simply placed in a file.

¹ Source: Horwath, J (2007): Child neglect: identification and assessment: Palgrave Macmillan

Here are some signs of possible neglect:

Physical signs:

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness
- Emaciation
- Untreated medical problems
- The child seems underweight and is very small for their age
- The child is poorly clothed, with inadequate protection from the weather
- Neglect can lead to failure to thrive, manifest by a fall away from initial centile lines in weight, height and head circumference. Repeated growth measurements are crucially important
- Signs of malnutrition include wasted muscles and poor condition of skin and hair. It is important not to miss an organic cause of failure to thrive; if this is suspected, further investigations will be required
- Infants and children with neglect often show rapid growth catch-up and improved emotional response in a hospital environment
- Failure to thrive through lack of understanding of dietary needs of a child or inability to provide an appropriate diet; or may present with obesity through inadequate attention to the child's diet
- Being too hot or too cold – red, swollen and cold hands and feet or they may be dressed in inappropriate clothing
- Consequences arising from situations of danger – accidents, assaults, poisoning
- Unusually severe but preventable physical conditions owing to lack of awareness of preventative health care or failure to treat minor conditions
- Health problems associated with lack of basic facilities such as heating
- Neglect can also include failure to care for the individual needs of the child including any additional support the child may need as a result of any disability

Behavioural signs:

- No social relationships
- Compulsive scavenging
- Destructive tendencies
- If they are often absent from school for no apparent reason
- If they are regularly left alone, or in charge of younger brothers or sisters
- Lack of stimulation can result in developmental delay, for example, speech delay, and this may be picked up opportunistically or at formal development checks
- Craving attention or ambivalent towards adults, or may be very withdrawn
- Delayed development and failing at school (poor stimulation and opportunity to learn)
- Difficult or challenging behaviour

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.

When dealing with concerns regarding physical abuse, refer any suspected non-accidental injury to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay so that they are able to seek appropriate guidance from the police and/or Children's Services in order to safeguard the child.

Staff must be alert to:

- Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns; improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries;
- Injuries that are not consistent with the story: too many, too severe, wrong place or pattern, child too young for the activity described.

Physical signs:

- Bald patches
- Bruises, black eyes and broken

- Untreated or inadequately treated injuries
- Injuries to parts of the body where accidents are unlikely, such as thighs, back, abdomen
- Scalds and burns
- General appearance and behaviour of the child may include:
 - Concurrent failure to thrive: measure height, weight and, in the younger child, head circumference;
 - Frozen watchfulness: impassive facial appearance of the abused child who carefully tracks the examiner with his eyes.
- Bruising:
 - Bruising patterns can suggest gripping (finger marks), slapping or beating with an object.
 - Bruising on the cheeks, head or around the ear and black eyes can be the result of non-accidental injury.
- Other injuries:
 - Bite marks may be evident from an impression of teeth
 - Small circular burns on the skin suggest cigarette burns
 - Scalding inflicted by immersion in hot water often affects buttocks or feet and legs symmetrically
 - Red lines occur with ligature injuries
 - Retinal haemorrhages can occur with head injury and vigorous shaking of the baby
 - Tearing of the frenulum of the upper lip can occur with force-feeding. However, any injury of this type must be assessed in the context of the explanation given, the child's developmental stage, a full examination and other relevant investigations as appropriate.
 - Fractured ribs: rib fractures in a young child are suggestive of non-accidental injury
 - Other fractures: spiral fractures of the long bones are suggestive of non-accidental injury

Behavioural signs:

- Wearing clothes to cover injuries, even in hot weather
- Refusal to undress for gym
- Chronic running away
- Fear of medical help or examination
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Fear of physical contact - shrinking back if touched
- Admitting that they are punished, but the punishment is excessive (such as a child being beaten every night to 'make him study')
- Fear of suspected abuser being contacted
- Injuries that the child cannot explain or explains unconvincingly
- Become sad, withdrawn or depressed
- Having trouble sleeping
- Behaving aggressively or be disruptive
- Showing fear of certain adults
- Having a lack of confidence and low self-esteem
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Repetitive pattern of attendance: recurrent visits, repeated injuries
- Excessive compliance
- Hyper-vigilance

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate

ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. Sexual abuse is usually perpetrated by people who are known to and trusted by the child – e.g. relatives, family friends, neighbours, people working with the child in school or through other activities.

Characteristics of child sexual abuse:

- It is usually planned and systematic – people do not sexually abuse children by accident, though sexual abuse can be opportunistic;
- Grooming the child – people who abuse children take care to choose a vulnerable child and often spend time making them dependent. This can be done in person or via the internet through chat-rooms and social networking sites;
- Grooming the child's environment – abusers try to ensure that potential adult protectors (parents and other carers especially) are not suspicious of their motives. Again, this can be done in person or via the internet through chat-rooms and social networking sites.

In young children behavioural changes may include:

- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys
- Being overly affectionate - desiring high levels of physical contact and signs of affection such as hugs and kisses
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a babysitter or child minder
- They may start using sexually explicit behaviour or language, particularly if the behaviour or language is not appropriate for their age
- Starting to wet again, day or night/nightmares

In older children behavioural changes may include:

- Extreme reactions, such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses, anorexia
- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clinging
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Being isolated or withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Become worried about clothing being removed
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures
- Trying to be 'ultra-good' or perfect; overreacting to criticism
- Genital discharge or urinary tract infections
- Marked changes in the child's general behaviour. For example, they may become unusually quiet and withdrawn, or unusually aggressive. Or they may start suffering from what may seem to be physical ailments, but which can't be explained medically
- The child may refuse to attend school or start to have difficulty concentrating so that their schoolwork is affected
- They may show unexpected fear or distrust of a particular adult or refuse to continue with their usual social activities
- The child may describe receiving special attention from a particular adult, or refer to a new, "secret" friendship with an adult or young person
- Children who have been sexually abused may demonstrate inappropriate sexualised knowledge and behaviour
- Low self-esteem, depression and self-harm are all associated with sexual abuse

Physical signs and symptoms for any age child could be:

- Medical problems such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals, venereal diseases
- Stomach pains or discomfort walking or sitting

- Sexually transmitted infections
- Any features that suggest interference with the genitalia. These may include bruising, swelling, abrasions or tears
- Soreness, itching or unexplained bleeding from penis, vagina or anus
- Sexual abuse may lead to secondary enuresis or faecal soiling and retention
- Symptoms of a sexually transmitted disease such as vaginal discharge or genital warts, or pregnancy in adolescent girls

Sexual Abuse by Young People

The boundary between what is abusive and what is part of normal childhood or youthful experimentation can be blurred. The determination of whether behaviour is developmental, inappropriate or abusive will hinge around the related concepts of true consent, power imbalance and exploitation. This may include children and young people who exhibit a range of sexually problematic behaviour such as indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, fetishism, bestiality and sexual abuse against adults, peers or children.

Developmental Sexual Activity encompasses those actions that are to be expected from children and young people as they move from infancy through to an adult understanding of their physical, emotional and behavioural relationships with each other. Such sexual activity is essentially information gathering and experience testing. It is characterised by mutuality and of the seeking of consent.

Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour can be inappropriate socially, inappropriate to development, or both. In considering whether behaviour fits into this category, it is important to consider what negative effects it has on any of the parties involved and what concerns it raises about a child or young person. It should be recognised that some actions may be motivated by information seeking, but still cause significant upset, confusion, worry, physical damage, etc. it may also be that the behaviour is “acting out” which may derive from other sexual situations to which the child or young person has been exposed.

If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour.

Abusive sexual activity includes any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base.

Assessment

In order to more fully determine the nature of the incident the following factors should be given consideration. The presence of exploitation in terms of:

- **Equality** – consider differentials of physical, cognitive and emotional development, power and control and authority, passive and assertive tendencies
- **Consent** – agreement including all the following:
 - Understanding that is proposed based on age, maturity, development level, functioning and experience
 - Knowledge of society’s standards for what is being proposed
 - Awareness of potential consequences and alternatives
 - Assumption that agreements or disagreements will be respected equally
 - Voluntary decision
 - Mental competence
- **Coercion** – the young perpetrator who abuses may use techniques like bribing, manipulation and emotional threats of secondary gains and losses that is loss of love, friendship, etc. Some may use physical force, brutality or the threat of these regardless of victim resistance.

In evaluating sexual behaviour of children and young people, the above information should be used only as a guide.

APPENDIX 2

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) under-18 is defined as that which:

'involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.'

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.' (Department for Education, 2012)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse which involves children (male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity.

Who is at risk?

Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person from any background. Although the research suggests that the females are more vulnerable to CSE, boys and young men are also victims of this type of abuse.

The characteristics common to all victims of CSE are not those of age, ethnicity or gender, rather their powerlessness and vulnerability. Victims often do not recognise that they are being exploited because they will have been groomed by their abuser(s). As a result, victims do not make informed choices to enter into, or remain involved in, sexually exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear. Sexual exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people.

In all its forms, CSE is child abuse and should be treated as a child protection issue.

WARNING SIGNS AND VULNERABILITIES CHECKLIST²

The evidence available points to several factors that can increase a child's vulnerability to being sexually exploited. The following are typical **vulnerabilities in children prior to abuse**:

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, parental criminality)
- History of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of 'honour'-based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect)
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships (in cases of gang-associated CSE only)
- Attending school with young people who are sexually exploited
- Learning disabilities
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families

² The Office of the Children's Commissioner (2012) Interim Report - Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Group and Gangs.

- Friends with young people who are sexually exploited
- Homeless
- Lacking friends from the same age group
- Living in a gang neighbourhood
- Living in residential care
- Living in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence
- Young carer

The following signs and behaviour are generally seen in children who are **already being sexually exploited**:

- Missing from home or care
- Physical injuries
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- Absent from school
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites
- Estranged from their family
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self-harm
- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide

Evidence shows that any child displaying several vulnerabilities from the above lists should be considered to be at high risk of sexual exploitation.

All schools should ensure that there is a dedicated lead person with responsibility for implementing local guidance in respect of child sexual exploitation. This would normally be the DSL.

The DSL must ensure they are aware of the guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation on the WSCB website: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/safeguarding-our-children/child-sexual-exploitation.aspx>

The DSL must ensure that all staff are aware of signs and symptoms of CSE and know that these must be reported and recorded as child protection concerns. The DSL must follow the Worcestershire Pathway for dealing with issues of CSE, including completion of the screening tool.

APPENDIX 3

Effects of domestic abuse on children and young people

The impact of domestic abuse on the quality of a child's or young person's life is very significant. Children and young people who live with domestic abuse are at increased risk of behavioural problems, emotional trauma, and mental health difficulties in adult life.

The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people can be wide-ranging and may include effects in any or all of the following areas:

Physical: Children and young people can be hurt either by trying to intervene and stopping the violence or by being injured themselves by the abuser. They may develop self-harming behaviour, or eating disorders. Their health could be affected, as they may not be being cared for appropriately. They may have suicidal thoughts or try to escape or blank out the abuse by using drugs, alcohol or by running away.

Sexual: There is a high risk that children and young people will be abused themselves where there is domestic abuse. In homes where living in fear is the norm, and situations are not discussed, an atmosphere of secrecy develops and this creates a climate in which sexual abuse could occur. In addition to this, children and young people may sometimes be forced to watch the sexual abuse of their mother/carer. This can have long-lasting effects on the sexual and emotional development of the child/young person.

Economic: The parent or carer of the child or young person may have limited control over the family finances. Therefore, there might be little or no money available for extra-curricular activities, clothing or even food, impacting on their health and development.

Emotional: Children and young people will often be very confused about their feelings – for example, loving both parents/carers but not wanting the abuse to continue. They may be given negative messages about their own worth, which may lead to them developing low self-esteem. Many children and young people feel guilty, believing that the abuse is their fault. They are often pessimistic about their basic needs being met and can develop suicidal thoughts. Some children and young people may internalise feelings and appear passive and withdrawn or externalise their feelings in a disruptive manner.

Isolation: Children and young people may become withdrawn and isolated; they may not be allowed out to play; and if there is abuse in the home they are less likely to invite their friends round. Schooling may be disrupted in many ways, and this may contribute to their growing isolation. They may frequently be absent from school as they may be too scared to leave their mother alone. They may have to move away from existing friends and family – e.g. into a refuge or other safe or temporary accommodation.

Threats: Children and young people are likely to have heard threats to harm their mother/father. They may have been directly threatened with harm or heard threats to harm their pet. They also live under the constant and unpredictable threat of violence, resulting in feelings of intimidation, fear and vulnerability, which can lead to high anxiety, tension, confusion and stress.

This clearly highlights that living with domestic abuse has a significant impact on a child's ability to achieve the five outcomes as outlined in the *Every Child Matters* agenda:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution;
- achieve economic well-being.

What you might see in school

- Unexplained absences or lateness – either from staying at home to protect their parent or hide their injuries, or because they are prevented from attending school;
- Children and young people attending school when ill rather than staying at home;
- Children and young people not completing their homework, or making constant excuses, because of what is happening at home;
- Children and young people who are constantly tired, on edge and unable to concentrate through disturbed sleep or worrying about what is happening at home;
- Children and young people displaying difficulties in their cognitive and school performance;
- Children and young people whose behaviour and personality changes dramatically;
- Children and young people who become quiet and withdrawn and have difficulty in developing positive peer relations;
- Children and young people displaying disruptive behaviour or acting out violent thoughts with little empathy for victims;
- Children and young people who are no trouble at all.

This list is not exhaustive – this is intended to give you an idea of some of the types of behaviour that could be presented.

What schools can do

Schools can create an environment which both promotes their belief and commitment that domestic abuse is not acceptable, and that they are willing to discuss and challenge it.

For many victims, the school might be the one place that they visit without their abusive partner.

It would help if schools displayed posters or had cards/pens available with information about domestic abuse and contact details for useful agencies: for example, NSPCC **0808 800 5000** and ChildLine **0800 11 11**; Parentline **0808 800 2222**; Worcestershire's Forum Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (WFADSA) 24 hr. helpline: **0800 980 3331**, website:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/domestic-and-sexual-abuse.aspx>

West Mercia Constabulary - Police Domestic Abuse Units 101.

Research shows that the repeated use of physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse is one of the ways in which male power is used to control women. The underlying attitudes which legitimate and perpetuate violence against women should be challenged by schools as part of the whole school ethos.

Schools can support individual children and young people by:

- Introducing a **whole-school philosophy** that domestic abuse is unacceptable;
- **Responding to disclosures** and potential child protection concerns; recognising that domestic abuse and forced marriage may be a child protection concern; policies and procedures must include domestic abuse;
- **Giving emotional support** – the child or young person might need referral to a more specialist service or need additional support to complete coursework, exams etc.;
- **Facilitating a peer support network** – children and young people can become isolated but often welcome talking to friends about their problems;
- **Offering practical support** – if children or young people are new to the school they may not yet have a uniform, they may also need financial help with extra-curricular activities, or they may be unfamiliar with the syllabus, the area, where to hang out, etc.;
- **Providing somewhere safe and quiet** to do their homework or just to sit and think;

- **Improving the self-esteem and confidence** of children and young people by:
 - offering them opportunities to take on new roles and responsibilities;
 - offering tasks which are achievable and giving praise and encouragement;
 - monitoring their behaviour and setting clear limits;
 - criticising the action, not the person;
 - helping them to feel a sense of control in their school lives;
 - involving them in decision making;
 - helping them to be more assertive;
 - respecting them as individuals;
 - encouraging involvement in extra-curricular activities.

From The Expect Respect Education Toolkit – Women’s Aid

Advice for schools on receiving notification of a Domestic Abuse incident

Background

Following a call to a domestic abuse incident where children are involved, Police notify Social Care and Health. A domestic abuse triage meeting takes place each day within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where the notifications are sorted into low, medium and high risk, depending on the perceived level of risk to the children. For those cases that are classified medium or high, the school DSL will receive an e-mail via their secure communications system on the Children's Services Portal, from the Family Front Door informing them that an incident has taken place and giving them a copy of the Police log. For high risk cases, they will also be contacted by telephone and asked whether they have any concerns about the children at school. Social Care will also inform parents that the notification has been received and shared with other agencies and that the information will be treated confidentially.

School action

On receiving this information, the DSL should:

- Log the information and keep the record alongside other information/concerns that the school has on this child/family, with all other confidential CP records in a secure place. This will allow the school to recognise any pattern and/or frequency of notifications and take appropriate action. **Please note that school may receive further communication about this same incident, once further assessment of the situation has been undertaken by Police – be careful not to log this as a separate incident.**
- Inform any staff of notification on a ‘need to know’ only basis – e.g. class teacher/form tutor.
- Alert all staff who teach pupil/student with minimum of information – e.g. ‘This pupil/student may need extra support / may need extra time to complete homework’.
- Monitor pupil/student behaviour in school (including attendance) and should concerns arise which may be attributed to the impact of the incident, consult with Social Care through the Family Front Door as the concerns may be significant and lead to new safeguarding action, or to seek advice on how to proceed.
- Provide appropriate support for child, **if required** – do not question pupil/student about the incident. Respect the child's decision on whether or not they wish to discuss the situation.
- Provide appropriate support for adult, **if asked** – e.g. helpline number (0800 980 3331) or website address: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/domestic-and-sexual-abuse.aspx>

Bear in mind

- Victim of incident may be anxious that the information will be shared inappropriately.

- Notification may not give details as to which parent is the perpetrator/victim – any disclosure to the ‘wrong’ parent could heighten risk.
- Need to be aware who is ‘connected’ to the child – e.g. TA/lunchtime supervisor may be child’s relative / friend of the family.
- **Inappropriate sharing of information could heighten the risk for the victim and/or the child.**

If in doubt, consult with the Family Front Door (01905 822666)

APPENDIX 4

Forced Marriage – a form of Domestic Abuse

Forced Marriage should be recognised as a human rights abuse – and should always invoke child protection procedures within the school.

A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties, and one where duress is a factor. A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage – in an arranged marriage the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner. The marriage is entered into freely by both people.

Warning signs

Warning signs can include a sudden drop in performance, truancy from lessons and conflicts with parents over continuation of the student's education.

There may be excessive parental restrictions and control, a history of domestic abuse within the family, or extended absence through sickness or overseas commitments. Students may also show signs of depression or self-harming, and there may be a history of older siblings leaving education early to get married.

The justifications

Most cases of forced marriage in the UK involve South Asian families. This is partially a reflection of the fact that there is a large established South Asian population in the UK. It is clear, however, that forced marriage is not a solely South Asian phenomenon — there have been cases involving families from East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Some forced marriages take place in the UK with no overseas element, while others involve a partner coming from overseas, or a British citizen being sent abroad. Parents who force their children to marry often justify it as protecting them, building stronger families and preserving cultural or religious traditions. They may not see it as wrong.

Forced marriage can never be justified on religious grounds: every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a pre-requisite of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriage.

Culture

Often parents believe that they are upholding the cultural traditions of their home countries, when in fact practices and values there have changed. Some parents come under significant pressure from their extended families to get their children married.

The law

Sexual intercourse without consent is rape, regardless of whether this occurs within the confines of a marriage. A girl who is forced into marriage is likely to be raped and may be raped until she becomes pregnant.

In addition, the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act (2007) makes provision for protecting children, young people and adults from being forced into marriage without their full and free consent through Forced Marriage Protection Orders. Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is a criminal offence.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence, with effect from 16th June 2014, to force someone to marry. This includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the marriage takes place);
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured into it or not).

What to do if a student seeks help

- The student should be seen immediately in a private place, where the conversation cannot be overheard.
- The student should be seen on her own, even if she attends with others.
- Develop a safety plan in case the student is seen i.e. prepare another reason why you are meeting.
- Explain all options to the student and recognise and respect her wishes. If the student does not want to be referred to Children's Services, you will need to consider whether to respect the student's wishes — or whether the student's safety requires further action to be taken. If you take action against the student's wishes you must inform the student.

- Establish whether there is a family history of forced marriage — i.e. siblings forced to marry.
- Advise the student not to travel overseas and discuss the difficulties she may face.
- Seek advice from the Forced Marriage Unit.
- Liaise with Police and Children's Services to establish if any incidents concerning the family have been reported.
- Refer to the local Police Child Protection Unit if there is any suspicion that there has been a crime or that one may be committed.
- Refer the student with her consent to the appropriate local and national support groups, and counselling services.

What to do if the student is going abroad imminently

The Forced Marriage Unit advises education professionals to gather the following information if at all possible — it will help the unit to locate the student and to repatriate her:

- a photocopy of the student's passport for retention — encourage her to keep details of her passport number and the place and date of issue
- as much information as possible about the family (this may need to be gathered discretely)
- full name and date of birth of student under threat
- student's father's name
- any addresses where the student may be staying overseas
- potential spouse's name
- date of the proposed wedding
- the name of the potential spouse's father if known
- addresses of the extended family in the UK and overseas

Specific information

It is also useful to take information that only the student would know, as this may be helpful during any interview at an embassy or British High Commission — in case another person of the same age is produced pretending to be the student.

Professionals should also take details of any travel plans and people likely to accompany the student. Note also the names and addresses of any close relatives remaining in the UK and a safe means to contact the student — a secret mobile telephone, for example, that will function abroad.

Forced marriage: what educators should NOT do

- treat such allegations merely as domestic issues and send the student back to the family home
- ignore what the student has told you or dismiss the need for immediate protection
- approach the student's family or those with influence within the community, without the express consent of the student, as this will alert them to your concern and may place the student in danger
- contact the family in advance of any enquires by the Police, Children's Services or the Forced Marriage Unit, either by telephone or letter
- share information outside child protection information sharing protocols without the express consent of the student
- breach confidentiality except where necessary in order to ensure the student's safety
- attempt to be a mediator

Further guidance is available from The Forced Marriage Unit:

Tel: (+44) (0)20 7008 0151 between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Emergency Duty Officer (out of hours): (+44) (0)20 7008 1500

E-mail: fm@fco.gov.uk **Website:** www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

FMU publication: '*Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage*' June 09

See also: '*The Right to Choose – Multi-Agency Guidance in relation to Forced Marriage*' Government Office - November 2008 and Interagency Guidance on Forced Marriage on the WSCB website.

Ref: WSCB local procedures '[Forced Marriage](#)' and [Worcestershire's Forced Marriage, Honour-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation Protocol – January 2016](#).

APPENDIX 5

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – a form of Human Rights Abuse

What is FGM?

FGM includes procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

There are four known types of FGM, all of which have been found in the UK:

Type 1 – clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris)

Type 2 – excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are the 'lips' that surround the vagina)

Type 3 – infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, or outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris

Type 4 – other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g., pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area.

FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. Communities tend to use local names for this practice, including 'sunna'.

Why is FGM carried out?

It is believed that:

- It brings status and respect to the girl and that it gives a girl social acceptance, especially for marriage.
- It preserves a girl's virginity/chastity.
- It is part of being a woman as a rite of passage.
- It upholds the family honour.
- It cleanses and purifies the girl.
- It gives the girl and her family a sense of belonging to the community.
- It fulfills a religious requirement believed to exist.
- It perpetuates a custom/tradition.
- It helps girls and women to be clean and hygienic.
- It is cosmetically desirable.
- It is mistakenly believed to make childbirth safer for the infant.

Religion is sometimes given as a justification for FGM. For example, some people from Muslim communities argue that the Sunna (traditions or practices undertaken or approved by the prophet Mohammed) recommends that women undergo FGM, and some women have been told that having FGM will make them 'a better Muslim'. However, senior Muslim clerics at an international conference on FGM in Egypt in 2006 pronounced that FGM is not Islamic, and the London Central Mosque has spoken out against FGM on the grounds that it constitutes doing harm to oneself or to others, which is forbidden by Islam.

Within which communities is FGM known to be practised?

According to the Home Office it is estimated that up to 24,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM.

UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyan, Somali, Sudanese, Sierra Leonei, Egyptian, Nigerian and Eritrean, as well as non-African communities including Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani.

Obviously, this not to say that all families from the communities listed above practise FGM, and many parents will refuse to have their daughters subjected to this procedure. However, in some communities a great deal of pressure can be put on parents to follow what is seen as a cultural or religious practice.

Is FGM harmful?

FGM is extremely harmful and is often described as brutal because of the way it is carried out, and its short and long term effects on physical and psychological health.

FGM is carried out on children between the ages of 0 and 15, depending on the community in which they live. It is often carried out without any form of sedation and without sterile conditions. The girl or young woman is held down while the procedure of cutting takes place and survivors describe extreme pain, fear and feelings of abandonment.

Where the vagina is cut and then sewn up, only a very small opening may be left. This is often seen as a way to ensure that when the girl enters marriage, she is a virgin. In some communities the mother of the future husband and the girl's own mother will take the girl to be cut open before the wedding night.

Repeat urinary tract infections are a common problem for women who have undergone FGM, and for some, infections come from menstruation being restricted. Many women have problems during pregnancy and childbirth. The removal of the clitoris denies women physical pleasure during sexual activity and some groups will practise complete removal to ensure chastity.

Is it illegal?

FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and is illegal in most countries – including the UK. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 came into force in 2004:

The act makes it illegal to:

- practise FGM in the UK
- take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM, whether or not it is lawful in that country
- aid and abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad.

The offence carries a penalty of up to 14 years in prison, and/or a fine.

Signs, symptoms and indicators

The following list of possible signs and indicators are not diagnostic, but are offered as a guide as to what kind of things should alert professionals to the possibility of FGM.

Things that may point to FGM happening:

- a child talking about getting ready for a special ceremony
- a family arranging a long break abroad
- a child's family being from one of the 'at-risk' communities for FGM (see above)
- knowledge that an older sibling has undergone FGM
- a young person talks of going abroad to be 'cut', or get ready for marriage.

Things that may indicate a child has undergone FGM:

- prolonged absence from school or other activities
- behaviour change on return from a holiday abroad, such as the child being withdrawn and appearing subdued
- bladder or menstrual problems
- finding it difficult to sit still, and looking uncomfortable
- complaining about pain between their legs
- mentioning something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about
- secretive behaviour, including isolating themselves from the group
- reluctance to take part in physical activity
- repeated urinary tract infection

- disclosure.

What should schools do?

Where schools have a concern about a child, they should contact Children's Social Care Services. If the concerns are based on more concrete indicators – i.e., the young person says this is going to happen to them, or disclosure that it has happened to them or to an older sister – schools should make a child protection referral and inform the Police as required by the mandatory reporting duty. Schools should not:

- contact the parents before seeking advice from children's social care;
- make any attempt to mediate between the child/young person and parents.

It is important to keep in mind that the parents may not see FGM as a form of abuse; however, they may be under a great deal of pressure from their community and or family to subject their daughters to it. Some parents from identified communities may seek advice and support as to how to resist and prevent FGM for their daughters, and education about the harmful effects of FGM may help to make parents feel stronger in resisting the pressure of others in the community. Remember that religious teaching does not support FGM.

The 'one chance' rule

In the same way that we talk about the 'one chance rule' in respect of young people coming forward with fears that they may be forced into marriage, young people disclosing fears that they are going to be sent abroad for FGM are taking the 'one chance', of seeking help.

It is essential that we take such concerns seriously and act without delay. Never underestimate the determination of parents who have decided that it is right for their daughter to undergo FGM. Attempts to mediate may place the child/young person at greater risk, and the family may feel so threatened at the news of their child's disclosure that they bring forward their plans or take action to silence her.

Mandatory Reporting Duty

Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers in England and Wales, to personally report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. Further information on when and how to make a report can be found in the following Home Office guidance: ['Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation - procedural information'](#) (October 2015).

APPENDIX 6

SEXTING

What is sexting?

Sexting is the exchange of self-generated sexually explicit images, through mobile picture messages or webcams over the internet.

Sexting is often seen as flirting by children and young people who think that it's part of normal life.

Often, incidents of sexting are not clear-cut or isolated; schools may encounter a variety of scenarios. Sexting incidents can be divided into two categories – aggravated and experimental³:

Aggravated incidents of sexting involve criminal or abusive elements beyond the creation of an image. These include further elements, adult involvement or criminal or abusive behaviour by minors such as sexual abuse, extortion, threats, malicious conduct arising from personal conflicts, or creation or sending or showing of images without the knowledge or against the will of a minor who is pictured.

Experimental incidents of sexting involve youths taking pictures of themselves to share with established boy or girlfriends, to create romantic interest in other youth, or for reasons such as attention seeking. There is no criminal element (and certainly no criminal intent) beyond the creation and sending of the images and no apparent malice or lack of willing participation.

The consequences of sexting can be devastating for young people. In extreme cases it can result in suicide or a criminal record, isolation and vulnerability. Young people can end up being criminalised for sharing an apparently innocently image which may have, in fact, been created for exploitative reasons.

Because of the prevalence of sexting, young people are not always aware that their actions are illegal. In fact, sexting as a term is not something that is recognised by young people and the 'cultural norms' for adults can be somewhat different. Some celebrities have made comments which appear to endorse sexting – 'it's okay, as long as you hide your face' - giving the impression that sexting is normal and acceptable. However, in the context of the law it is an illegal activity and young people must be made aware of this.

The decision to criminalise children and young people for sending these kinds of images is a little unclear although recent media information suggested that all incidents reported to the police would be recorded, but not all would be investigated. The current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) position is that:

'ACPO does not support the prosecution or criminalisation of children for taking indecent images of themselves and sharing them. Being prosecuted through the criminal justice system is likely to be upsetting and distressing for children especially if they are convicted and punished. The label of sex offender that would be applied to a child or young person convicted of such offences is regrettable, unjust and clearly detrimental to their future health and wellbeing.'

Further information from ACPO is expected imminently (August 2016).

Action to take in the case of an incident of sexting

Step 1 – Disclosure by a student

Sexting disclosures should follow the normal safeguarding practices and protocols. A student is likely to be very distressed especially if the image has been circulated widely and if they don't know who has shared it, seen it or where it has ended up. They will need pastoral support during the disclosure and after the event. They may even need immediate protection or a referral to Social Care.

The following questions will help decide upon the best course of action:

- Is the student disclosing about themselves receiving an image, sending an image or sharing an image?
- What sort of image is it? Is it potentially illegal or is it inappropriate?
- Are the school child protection and safeguarding policies and practices being followed? For example, has the DSL been consulted and is their advice and support available?

³ Reprinted from Wolak and Finkelhor 'Sexting: a Typology' March 2011

- How widely has the image been shared and is the device in their possession?
- Is it a school device or a personal device?
- Does the student need immediate support and or protection?
- Are there other students and or young people involved?
- Do they know where the image has ended up?

This situation will need to be handled very sensitively. Whatever the nature of the incident, ensure school safeguarding and child protection policies and practices are adhered to.

Step 2 – Searching a device

It is highly likely that the image will have been created and potentially shared through mobile devices. The image may not be on one single device, but may be on a website or on a multitude of devices; it may be on either a school-owned or personal device. It is important to establish the location of the image but be aware that this may be distressing for the young person involved, so be conscious of the support they may need.

When searching a mobile device the following conditions should apply:

- The action is in accordance with the school's child protection and safeguarding policies
- The search is conducted by the head teacher or a person authorised by them
- A member of the safeguarding team is present
- The search is conducted by a member of the same sex

If any illegal images of a child are found you should consider whether to inform the police. As a general rule it will almost always be proportionate to refer any incident involving "aggravated" sharing of images to the police, whereas purely "experimental" conduct may proportionately be dealt with without such referral, most particularly if it involves the child sharing images of themselves.

Any conduct involving, or possibly involving, the knowledge or participation of adults should always be referred to the police.

If an "experimental" incident is not referred to the police the reasons for this should be recorded in writing.

Always put the child first. Do not search the device if this will cause additional stress to the student/person whose image has been distributed.

If there is an indecent image of a child on a website or a social networking site then you should report the image to the site hosting it. In the case of a sexting incident involving a child or young person where you feel that they may be at risk of abuse then you should report the incident directly to CEOP www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report, so that law enforcement can make an assessment, expedite the case with the relevant provider and ensure that appropriate action is taken to safeguard the child.

Step 3 – What to do and not do with the image

If the image has been shared across a personal mobile device:

- Confiscate and secure the device;
- Don't view the image unless there is a clear reason to do so;
- Don't send, share or save the image anywhere;
- Don't allow students to view images or send, share or save them anywhere.

If the image has been shared across a school network, a website or social network:

- Block the network to all users and isolate the image;
- Don't send or print the image;
- Don't move the material from one place to another;
- Don't view the image outside of the protocols of your safeguarding policies and procedures.

Step 4 – Who should deal with the incident?

Whoever the initial disclosure is made to must act in accordance with the school safeguarding policy, ensuring that the DSL or a senior member of staff is involved in dealing with the incident.

The DSL should always record the incident. Senior management should also always be informed. There may be instances where the image needs to be viewed and this should be done in accordance with protocols. The best interests of the child should always come first; if viewing the image is likely to cause additional stress, staff should make a judgement about whether or not it is appropriate to do so.

Step 5 - Deciding on a response

There may be a multitude of reasons why a student has engaged in sexting – it may be a romantic/sexual exploration scenario or it may be due to coercion.

It is important to remember that it won't always be appropriate to inform the police; this will depend on the nature of the incident. However, as a school it is important that incidents are consistently recorded. It may also be necessary to assist the young person in removing the image from a website or elsewhere.

If indecent images of a child are found:

- Act in accordance with your child protection and safeguarding policy, e.g. notify DSL
- Store the device securely
- Carry out a risk assessment in relation to the young person (see Appendix B of the Safeguarding Children in Education Guidance for a Sexting Risk Assessment pro-forma and flow chart)
- Make a referral if needed
- Contact the police (if appropriate)
- Put the necessary safeguards in place for the student, e.g. they may need counselling support, immediate protection and parents must also be informed.
- Inform parents and/or carers about the incident and how it is being managed.

Step 6 – Contacting other agencies (making a referral)

If the nature of the incident is high-risk, consider contacting Children's Social Care. Depending on the nature of the incident and the response you may also consider contacting local police or referring the incident to CEOP.

Understanding the nature of the incident, whether experimental or aggravated, will help to determine the appropriate course of action.

Step 7 – Containing the incident and managing pupil reaction

Sadly, there are cases in which victims of sexting have had to leave or change schools because of the impact the incident has had on them. The student will be anxious about who has seen the image and where it has ended up. They will seek reassurance regarding its removal from the platform on which it was shared. They are likely to need support from the school, their parents and their friends. Education programmes can reinforce to all students the impact and severe consequences that this behaviour can have. Consider engaging with your local police and asking them to talk to the students.

Other staff may need to be informed of incidents and should be prepared to act if the issue is continued or referred to by other students. The school, its students and parents should be on high alert, challenging behaviour and ensuring that the victim is well cared for and protected. The students' parents should usually be told what has happened so that they can keep a watchful eye over their child, especially when they are online at home.

Creating a supportive environment for students in relation to the incident is very important.

Step 8 – Reviewing outcomes and procedures to prevent further incidences

As with all incidents, a review process ensures that the matter has been managed effectively and that the school has the capacity to learn and improve its handling procedures. Incidents of sexting can be daunting for a school to manage, especially if the image has been widely shared between pupils in school.

Further information is available from the [NSPCC](#)

APPENDIX 7

RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

What is Prevent?

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, **in all its forms**. Prevent works at the pre-criminal stage by using early intervention to encourage individuals and communities to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015), places a duty on specified authorities, including schools and colleges, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). The Prevent duty reinforces existing duties placed upon educational establishments for keeping children safe by:

- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum is in place schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into extremist views;
- Ensuring safeguarding arrangements by working in partnership with local authorities, police and communities;
- Training staff to provide them with the knowledge and ability to identify pupils at risk;
- Keeping pupils safe online, using effective filtering and usage policies.

Warning Signs/Indicators of Concern

There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

Factors which may make pupils more vulnerable may include:

- **Identity Crisis:** the pupil is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- **Personal Crisis:** the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- **Personal Circumstances:** migration; local community tensions and events affecting the pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- **Unmet Aspirations:** the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- **Experiences of Criminality:** involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, poor resettlement or reintegration.
- **Special Educational Need:** pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

Pupils who are vulnerable to radicalisation may also be experiencing:

- Substance and alcohol misuse

- Pressure
- Influence from older people or via the Internet
- Bullying
- Domestic violence
- Race/hate crime

Behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and/or spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Possessing or accessing materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives, this may include justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group;
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others
 - Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
 - Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools.

Referral Process

All concerns about young people vulnerable to radicalisation should be referred to the DSL in the first instance. The DSL will follow safeguarding procedures including:

- Talking to the young person about their behaviour/views/on-line activity/friends etc.;
- Discussion with parents/carers about the concerns;
- Checking out on-line activity, including social media if possible;

- Providing in-house support, if available;
- Providing Early Help targeted support if necessary.

If concerns persist, then the DSL should complete the Channel Referral Form (available from the WSCB website) and submit to the Family Front Door via a Cause for Concern Notification, normally with the knowledge and consent of the young person.

The referral will then be subject to a triage process to decide whether or not it meets the threshold for a referral to Channel. If it does, the DSL should be prepared to attend the Channel Panel meeting to share the concerns and help identify any intervention required. Further feedback to the Channel Panel will be expected following intervention to decide whether there are still concerns.

Further information can be found in the [WSCB local procedures](#)